

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 41, and 42 as indicated below, wherein added material is underlined and deleted material is shown by strikethrough. In addition, please add claim 49 and cancel claims 9, 15-26, and 35-40. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, at least a portion of the upper comprising:
a substrate layer formed of an air-permeable textile material, the textile material being at least partially formed from a plurality of filaments or fibers; and
a web layer defining a plurality of apertures that expose portions of the textile material of the substrate layer, the web layer being formed of a polymer material that infiltrates the textile material of the substrate layer and extends around the plurality of filaments or fibers to secure the web layer to ~~and is thereby secured to~~ the substrate layer.
2. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate layer is a non-woven textile.
3. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate layer is a mesh material.
4. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 3, wherein the mesh material includes two spaced textile layers interconnected by a plurality of connecting fibers.
5. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the web layer forms an exterior surface of the upper.
6. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 5, wherein the web layer forms at least a portion of a toe region of the upper.

7. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 5, wherein the web layer forms at least a portion of a lateral region of the upper.
8. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 5, wherein the web layer has a stepped configuration that forms a plurality of ridges positioned on the exterior surface.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 8, wherein at least a portion of the ridges are positioned on a lateral region of the footwear.
11. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the web layer is formed of a thermoset polyurethane material.
12. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the web layer is formed through a casting process.
13. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 12, wherein the casting process includes placing a polymer resin into a mold such that the polymer resin infiltrates the substrate layer.
14. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the polymer material is absent from areas of the substrate layer that correspond with positions of the apertures.
- 15-26. (Cancelled)
27. (Original) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, the upper comprising:
- a textile layer formed of a plurality of fibers; and
 - a polymer layer that forms at least a portion of an exterior surface of the upper, the polymer layer defining a plurality of apertures that form a web layer and expose

portions of the textile layer, and the polymer layer being formed of a polymer material that:

infiltrates a first area of the textile layer and extends around the fibers in the first area to secure the polymer layer to the textile layer, the first area corresponding with portions of the textile layer that are immediately adjacent the web layer, and

is absent from a second area of the textile layer, the second area corresponding with portions of the polymer layer that are immediately adjacent the apertures, and the second area being air-permeable to permit air transfer through the upper.

28. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 27, wherein the textile layer is two spaced layers interconnected by a plurality of connecting fibers.

29. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 27, wherein the polymer material is a thermoset polyurethane.

30. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 27, wherein the web layer forms a portion of at least one of a toe region and a lateral region of the upper.

31. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 27, wherein the polymer layer is formed through a casting process.

32. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein the casting process includes placing a polymer resin into a mold such that the polymer resin infiltrates the textile layer.

33. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 27, wherein the web layer forms a plurality of ridges positioned on the exterior surface.

34. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the ridges are positioned on a lateral region of the upper.

35-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, at least a portion of the upper comprising:

a textile layer ~~formed of a mesh material~~ at least partially formed from a plurality of filaments or fibers; and

a polymer layer that exposes portions of the textile layer, the polymer layer being formed of a polymer material that infiltrates the textile layer and is thereby secured to the textile layer.

a polymer layer that exposes portions of the textile layer, the polymer layer being formed of a polymer material that infiltrates the textile layer and extends around the plurality of filaments or fibers to secure the polymer layer to the textile layer ~~and is thereby secured to the textile layer.~~

42. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the textile layer is a mesh material, and the mesh material includes two spaced textile layers interconnected by a plurality of connecting fibers.

43. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the web layer forms an exterior surface of the upper.

44. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the web layer is formed of a thermoset polyurethane material.

45. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the web layer is formed through a casting process.

46. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 45, wherein the casting process includes placing a polymer resin into a mold such that the polymer resin infiltrates the substrate layer.

47. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the polymer layer defines a plurality of apertures that form a web structure.

48. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein the polymer material is absent from areas of the textile layer that correspond with positions of the apertures.

49. (New) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, at least a portion of the upper comprising:

a substrate layer formed of an air-permeable textile material; and

a web layer defining a plurality of apertures that expose portions of the textile material of the substrate layer, the web layer being formed of a polymer material that infiltrates the textile material of the substrate layer and is thereby secured to the substrate layer, and the web layer forming an exterior surface of the upper to have a stepped configuration that forms a plurality of ridges positioned on the exterior surface, the ridges extending between adjacent apertures.